SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 110-343

TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Olympic Peninsula
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s):2012

2. Project Name: Matheny Elk Habitat Enhancement	**3a. State:** Washington **3b. County(s):** Jefferson
4. Project Submitted By: Mark Senger	**5. Date:** 03/22/2011
6. Contact Phone Number: (360) 956-2358	**7. Contact E-mail:** marksenger@fs.fed.us

8. Project Location: Matheny Creek Subwatershed	
a. National Forest(s): Olympic	b. Forest Service District: Pacific
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T 24N, R10.5W, Sec. 11,12,13,14 and 24 T 24N, R10W, Sec. 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 28 T 24N, R9W, Sec. 19 and 20	

9. Project Goals and Objectives:
To enhance Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer forage quantity and quality, increase tree health and vigor, increase plant species diversity, increase understory vegetation and begin the development of late-successional characteristics in young managed forest stands.

10. Project Description:
a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)
The project would utilize chainsaws to reduce tree density in young managed stands (about 20-30 years in age).
b. Detailed: The reduction of tree density in selected young forest stands will complement other habitat restoration efforts in the watershed to provide benefits to a larger proportion of the landscape. Past timber harvest practices on the Olympic National Forest produced an abundance of even-aged stands that are now 20-80 years old. If not thinned, these stands generally have little in the way of understory forage available, however when opened up to where adequate sunlight can reach the ground, these areas can provide a variety of forage species including high value grasses and shrub species suitable for Roosevelt elk and blacktail deer. In addition to big game, a variety of other wildlife species benefit from understory forage enhancement, including grouse, quail, black bear, songbirds, and small mammals. Increases in deciduous understory vegetation provides for insects that form the base of the food web. Berry producing shrubs provide browse as well as soft mast for a variety of species. This project will occur in an area where recent commercial thinning (with more acres under contract), and controlled access through road decommissioning and year-round gates, has occurred, both of which increase the functional value of the landscape for big game species while also reducing illegal mortality and disturbance. Additionally, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has funded the first phase of precommercial thinning work across a portion of the potential stands, to be accomplished during calendar year 2011. Continued efforts will create more understory forage

available over time and space within the Matheny Creek drainage and will provide connections between the other enhanced areas. The forage provided in different types of growing areas will ensure a greater longevity and year-round availability of the forage resource across the project area. Given the historic high elk use in this watershed, benefits to elk could be substantial.

Currently there is a new elk habitat model for Western Oregon and Washington. The variables that are the basis for the model have been rigoriously validated by elk researchers. When developing the proposal for the Matheny area, we based our recommendations and strategies on variables that this new scientific information has supported. For example, we chose young stands for potential precommercial thinning that had one or more factors shown to be important in increasing forage value or expected use by elk, including slopes <40%, a hardwood component in the overstory, distance from roads open to the public, and close association of forage areas with nearby escape cover. Currently the nutrition portion of the model shows the Matheny area to have poor to marginal forage across much of the area. Preliminary analysis of the dietary portion of the model predicts an increase in dietary digestible energy in the young stands chosen for thinning.

The units chosen for PCT are well distributed and complement the completed or planned commercial thinning, natural wetlands, and existing access control measures. This holistic, landscape-level approach is intended to provide increased forage, security, and escapement on a scale that improves a greater proportion of elk home ranges. Unit choice also balanced the need for ease of access for thinning and the need for elk security and escapement. Chosen units represent a range in aspects and elevation (600 to 1530 feet) to allow for forage availability at different times of the year. Slopes are generally moderate to gentle.

Contract crews will implement the precommercial thinning treatment within the selected forest stands. Trees will be felled by chainsaw and left on the site. The thinning treatment will retain less abundant tree species, the tree spacing would be designed to promote stand structural heterogeneity, and a portion of the selected stands would remain untreated to provide slash-free corridors for wildlife movement. The Olympic National Forest has a large number of acres in young stands that would benefit from tree density reduction. Appropriated dollars for the funding of precommercial thinning have been declining for years, and there is not sufficient funding to treat all acres with a need. Due to historic high elk use in the watershed, the Matheny Creek subwatershed is a high priority location for implementing precommercial treatments that will enhance habitat value. Stands selected for a thinning treatment under this proposal would be chosen from the pool of potential thinning units (a total of 720 acres) shown on the attached map. Stands shown on the map with crosshatching are those planned for treatment beginning in FY 2011 through the partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

☐ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

☒ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

☒ Restores and improves land health.

☐ Restores water quality

13. Project Type a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
☐ Road Maintenance	☐ Trail Maintenance
☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration	☐ Trail Obliteration
☐ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
☐ Soil Productivity Improvement	☒ Forest Health Improvement
☐ Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	☒ Wildlife Habitat Restoration
☐ Fish Habitat Restoration	☐ Control of Noxious Weeds
☐ Reestablish Native Species	☐ Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
☐ Implement CWPP Project	☐ Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1):	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trial obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction): 300
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: 300
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 0.8
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):

Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 6/1/2012	**16. Estimated Project Completion Date:** 11/15/2012

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.
The Rocky Mountain Elk foundation has partnered ($17,150) with the Olympic National Forest on similar work within the watershed, and treatment of about 247 acres (see attached map) will be implemented beginning in FY 2011, with completion anticipated in FY2012. The FY12 Title II funding would complement the habitat enhancement work currently being implemented by expanding treatments to a larger proportion of the landscape. Title II funding would augment appropriated funds to expand the treated area in the Matheny Creek subwatershed. To ensure that at least 300 acres are treated, appropriated dollars would be increased if contract costs are higher than expected. If contract costs are lower than expected, additional acres will be treated. If the project is funded through Title II at a lower level than requested, a proportion of the 150 acres proposed for funding with Title II would be accomplished at the same per acre cost (in addition to the 150 acres covered by appropriated funds).

18. Identify benefits to communities.
Contracting of the thinning treatment would provide an opportunity for local contractors who specialize in labor intensive projects such as chainsaw thinning. Funding would create work for the selected contractor, and provide wages for a crew of 10 to 12 individual workers (approx. 200 man days). Indirect benefits to communities would include expenditures made in the local area by the contractor and crew on fuel, food and miscellaneous items during the life of the contract.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?
The thinned areas will provide short-term foraging opportunities for deer and elk, and forage and habitat for other early-successional species. The thinning treatment will contribute to attaining the long term goal of developing late-successional habitat by maintaining stand health, increasing diameter growth and retaining desirable characteristics such as live limbs on the lower portion of the trees. Treatment of these stands will contribute to habitat connectivity on the landscape. Future tree density reduction treatments will be necessary for continued stand development toward the desired long-term conditions of providing late-successional characteristics.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
☒ Contract	☒ Federal Workforce
☐ County Workforce	☐ Volunteers
☐ Grant	☐ Agreement
☐ Americorps	☐ YCC/CCC Crews
☐ Job Corps	☐ Stewardship Contract
☐ Merchantable Timber Pilot	☐ Other (specify):

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? ☐ Yes ☒ No

22. Anticipated Project Costs

a. Title II Funds Requested: $37,500
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? ☐ Yes ☒ No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:
NEPA was completed in FY2010 with appropriated funding. Appropriated funding would be used for contract preparation, contract administration and monitoring.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

   Monitoring during contract administration will confirm that the project is implemented as designed. Field review of the thinned sites following project implementation will assess stand conditions. In the long term, continued formal and informal monitoring of stand health and development will assess stand progress toward the desired future condition and inform the scheduling of any future treatments.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Forest Service

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.
If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:
☐ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
☒ Other, please explain: Funds would be committed to a service contract which includes other similar work funded by appropriated dollars. The contract may extend into FY2013.

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Chairperson
Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Forest Supervisor
National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	*Column A* **Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution**	*Column B* **Requested Title II Contribution**	*Column C* **Other Contributions**	*Column D* **Total Available Funds**
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	$250			$250
b. NEPA/CEQA	$500			$500
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	$500			$500
g. Contract/Grant Administration	$1500			$1500
h. Contract/Grant Cost	$37,500	$37,500	$17,150	$92,150
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring	$500			$500
l. Other				
m. Project Sub-Total	$40,750	$37,500	$17,150	$95,400
n. Indirect Costs				
o. Total Cost Estimate	$40,750	$37,500	$17,150	$95,400

NOTES:

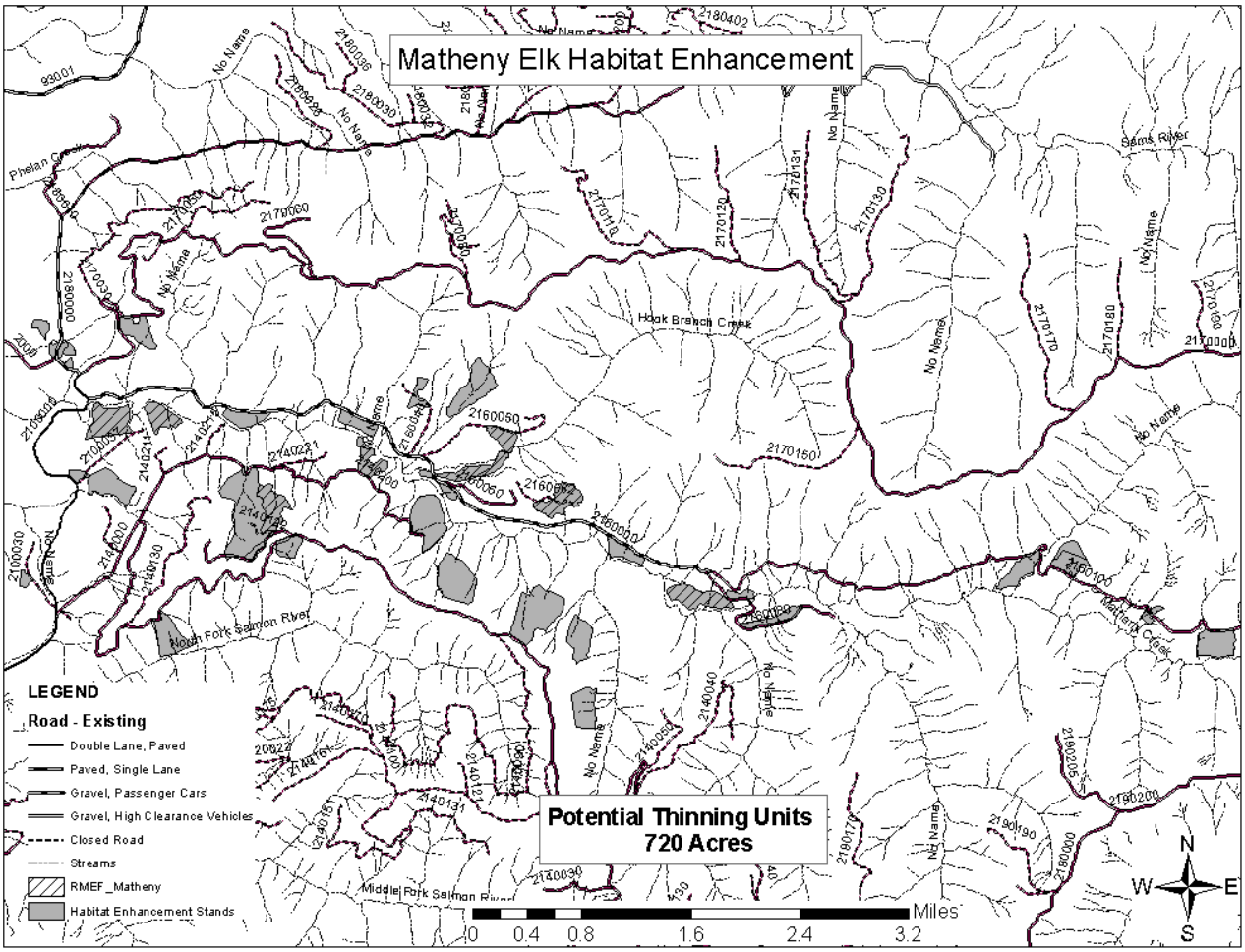
a. Pre-NEPA Costs

g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.

i. Cost of implementing project

l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.



Stands shown with crosshatching are planned for implementation in FY2011 (247 acres).
A pool of potential treatment stands totaling an additional 720 acres are shaded gray on the map.